

Management of Small Docks and Piers



**Where to Get
Additional Help**



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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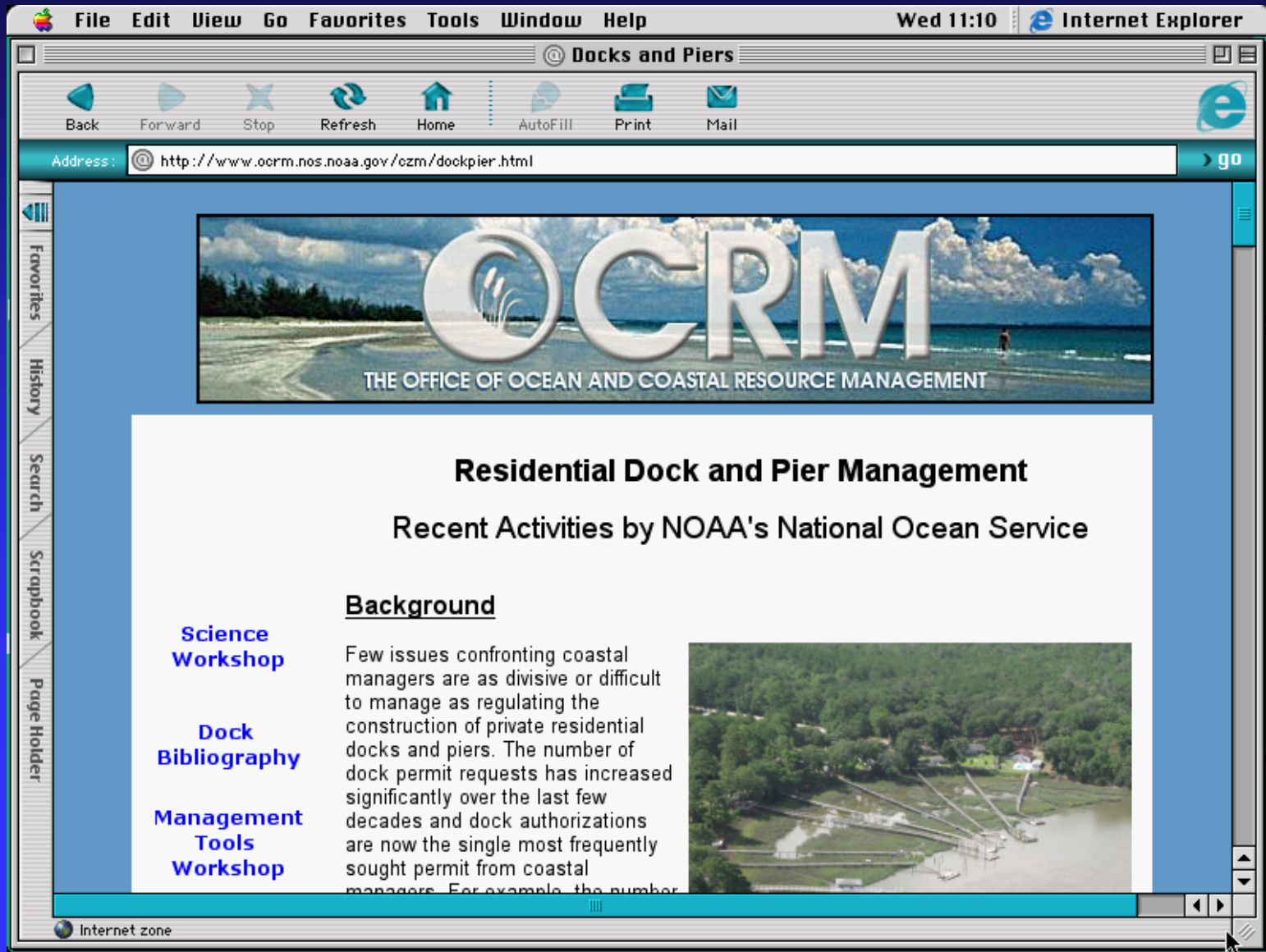
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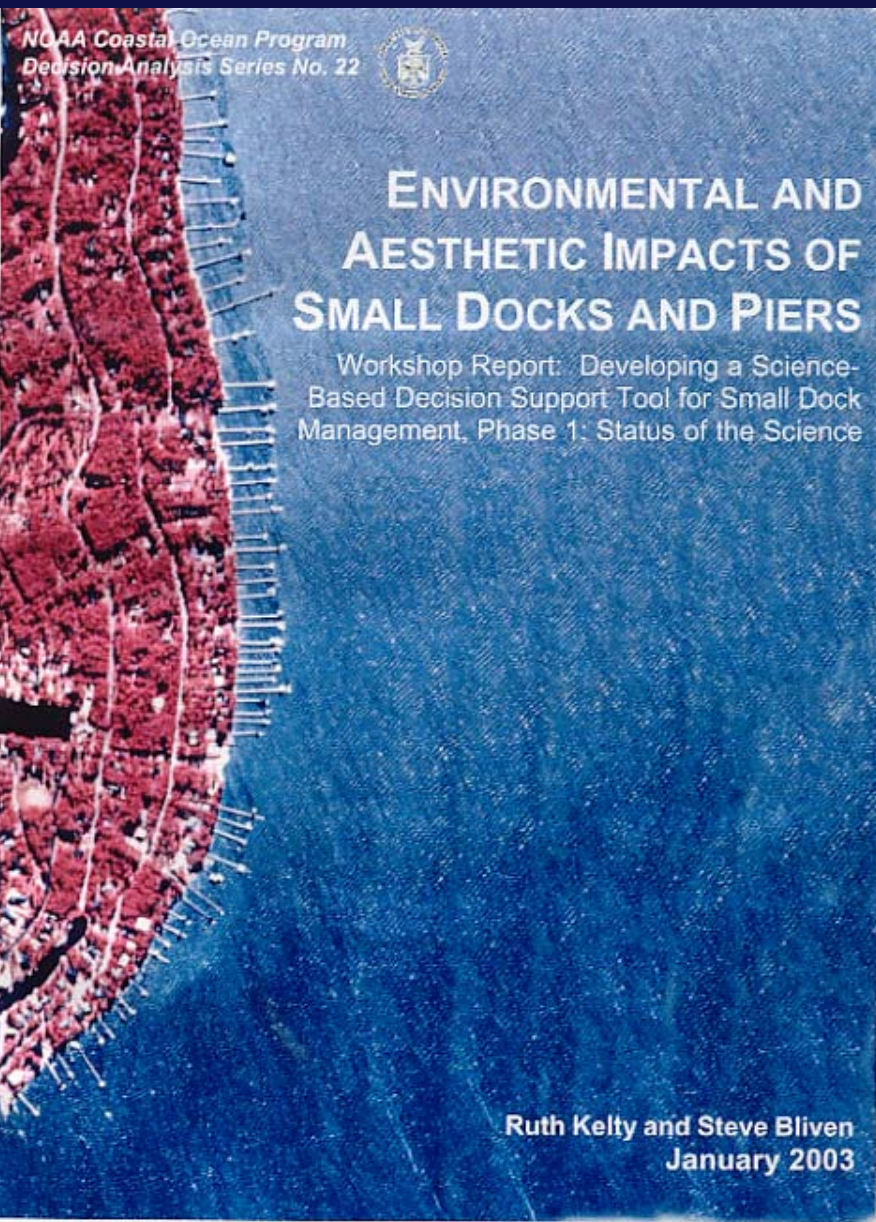
Materials prepared by Steve Bliven of Bliven & Sternack

What is NOAA Doing?

Dock Website: <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/czm/dockpier.html>



What is NOAA Doing?



Science Workshop in 2003

- **Scientists and Managers reviewed the state of the knowledge of dock impacts**
- **Produced a Proceedings of the workshop available on the Internet.**

What is NOAA Doing?

MANAGEMENT TOOLS TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACTS OF RESIDENTIAL DOCKS AND PIERS

Allison Castellan, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

Abstract

To comprehensively manage docks, coastal managers must have both the latest science and the laws and policies in place to implement new management techniques. This workshop to engage resource management professionals in promoting better dock management compiled and evaluated various regulatory, planning, design, and construction practices to minimize the environmental impacts from small docks and piers. This talk presented the range of existing regulations and showcasing programs incorporating management tools. As follow-up from the workshop, NOAA is developing a web-based database to house information on state regulatory and planning programs used to manage docks and piers. Managers improve and justify their regulations and permitting processes by providing information to handle similar circumstances. Information in the database can also be used to develop management procedures, support permit denials when the impacts of a proposed project are unacceptable, and develop management plans. The session will conclude with a discussion on regional outreach and sharing information learned during the national workshop to a wider audience. This is part of the Integrating Science, Policy, and Management of Docks and Piers. Also see *Assessing the Impacts of Docks and Piers* (R. Kelty) and *Visual Impact Assessment of Docks and Piers* (Bliven) also included in these proceedings.

Introduction



Few issues confronting coastal managers are as divisive or difficult to manage as private recreational docks and piers. The number of dock permit requests has increased in a few decades and dock authorizations are now the single most frequently sought permit. For example, the number of dock permit requests received each year in South Carolina has increased two decades from 80 to over 800. Many coastal managers and citizens are concerned about the impacts numerous private docks may have on the environment and the public's ability to access the waterfront. Therefore, coastal managers have requested a variety of management techniques—both regulatory and non-regulatory—that they can use to manage pier growth.

Management Tools Workshop in 2003

- Managers and /educators reviewed management concerns and options related to small dock management.
- Workshop summary available online.

What is NOAA Doing?

Searchable, Web-based Bibliography



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Publications

Bibliography Search Results

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[View](#) Benfield M.C. and T.J. Minello. 1996. Relative effects of turbidity and light intensity on reactive distance and feeding of an estuarine fish. *Environmental Biology of Fishes* 46 : 211

[View](#) Burdick, D.M. and F.T. Short. 1999. The Effects of Boat Docks on Eelgrass Beds in Coastal Waters of Massachusetts. *Environmental Management* 23 (2) : 231-240

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[View](#) Fonesca, M.S. and W.J. Kenworthy. 1987. Effects of current on photosynthesis and distribution of seagrasses. *Aquatic Botany* 27 : 59-78

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What is NOAA Doing?



Residential Dock and Pier Management Database

State:

State information
Last Updated Date:

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION FOR DOCK AND PIER MANAGEMENT

LEAD AGENCY FOR DOCK AND PIER MANAGEMENT	SECONDARY AGENCY	OTHER AGENCY	List any Additional State Agencies that may play a role in dock and Pier Management
AGENCY: <input type="text" value="Department of Environments"/>	<input type="text" value="Department of Conservation"/>	<input type="text" value="Land Use Regulation Comm"/>	<input type="text" value="LURC in unorganized territories only; Dept. of Conservation for Submerged Land Leases"/>
CONTACT: <input type="text" value="Judy C. Gates"/>	<input type="text" value="Dan Prichard"/>	<input type="text" value="Catherine Carroll"/>	
PHONE #: <input type="text" value="207-287-7691"/>	<input type="text" value="207-287-4919"/>	<input type="text" value="207-287-4930"/>	
E-MAIL: <input type="text" value="judy.gates@maine.gov"/>	<input type="text" value="dan.prichard@maine.gov"/>	<input type="text" value="catherine.carroll@maine.gov"/>	
WEBSITE: <input type="text" value="www.state.me.us/dep"/>	<input type="text" value="www.state.me.us/doc"/>	<input type="text" value="www.state.me.us/doc"/>	

TEXT FOR DOCK AND PIER MANAGEMENT

Number of dock and pier permits issued annually: Number of permits denied annually:

Regulatory definition for docks or piers. Consideration of all types of supports (piles, cribs) occurs through permit process to determine least damaging practicable placed on width or length, but restrictions to half tide access are more common. as are approx. 20 to 40 wide, but tend to be shorter than private piers. Typical 0 feet long and 4 to 6 feet wide.

Resources Protection Act (NRPA), 38 M.R.S.A. Sect. 400-A through Z, requires permitting for any structure in, on, over, or adjacent to a protected natural resource, including any dock or pier in place over 7 months (i.e. permanent).

General Description of Management Program: (We are looking for a very

Data Base of State
Programs on
Web

What is NOAA Doing?

- **Inventory of State Programs by Region**
- **Publication on Visual Impact Management**
- **Visualizing Alternatives Computer Simulation**
- **Outreach and Training materials**

Additional Sources:

- **State Coastal Management Programs**
- **National Estuarine Research Reserves**
- **State Regulatory Programs**
- **Sea Grant Programs**
- **US Army Corps of Engineers**
- **The Internet**

